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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/687,289	10/15/2003	Ivan Osorio	011738.00141	8969
22908	7590	02/24/2006	EXAMINER	
BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD. TEN SOUTH WACKER DRIVE SUITE 3000 CHICAGO, IL 60606			ALTER, ALYSSA M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3762	

DATE MAILED: 02/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/687,289

Applicant(s)

OSORIO ET AL.

Examiner

Alyssa M. Alter

Art Unit

3762

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on January 27, 2006 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 1-19 and 21-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Whitehurst (US Patent Publications 20020013612 A1). Whitehurst discloses a system and method for treating mood or anxiety disorders, which is a nervous system disorder, by utilizing an implantable system control unit (SCU), electrodes and a pulse generator for treatment.

The system is capable of open- and closed-loop operation. In closed-loop operation, at least one SCU includes a sensor, and the sensed condition is used to

adjust stimulation parameters. The SCU is the implantable component and the first treatment therapy mode is the closed-loop mode.

"While an SCU 130 may also incorporate means of sensing symptoms or other prognostic or diagnostic indicators of mood and/or anxiety disorders, e.g., via levels of a neurotransmitter or hormone, it may alternatively or additionally be desirable to use a separate or specialized implantable device to record and telemeter physiological conditions/responses in order to adjust electrical stimulation and/or drug infusion parameters. This information may be transmitted to an external device, such as external appliance 220, or may be transmitted directly to implanted SCU(s) 130" (page 8, paragraph 90). Therefore the external appliance 220 is the external component, the second treatment therapy mode is the open-loop operation and the communications channel is the telemetry channel. If the external component fails to communicate with the implanted component in open-loop mode, then the SCU functions in a closed-loop mode.

As to claims 2-3, 9 and 32, the "external appliance 220 is connected to or is a part of external electronic circuitry appliance 230 which receives power 232 from a conventional power source. External appliance 230 contains manual input means 238, e.g., a keypad, whereby the patient 200 or a caregiver 242 may request changes in the parameters of the electrical and/or drug stimulation produced during the normal operation of SCU 130" (page 7, paragraph 84). Since can be connected to, external electronic circuitry appliance 230 or alternatively, is a part of the external appliance 220. The programmer can both directly and indirectly communicate with the implantable

medical device via the first external component. Furthermore, the third treatment therapy mode is the administering of drug stimulation.

As to claims 7, the sensing function or device for the sensing symptoms or other prognostic or diagnostic indicators of mood and/or anxiety disorders is the triggering device that affects at least one of the treatment therapy modes.

As to claims 8, the second communications channel is 246 as displayed in figure 7 between the first external appliance 230 and the other computing means 248.

As to claims 10 and 12, the other external component is the MDS or manufacturing and diagnostic system 194 as seen in figure 6, is used to program and test the implantable pulse generator (IPG) or SCU. Therefore, the additional treatment therapy mode is the testing of the SCU.

As to claim 16, the first treatment therapy mode is a closed-loop mode, which is equivalent to basic loop recording, and the second treatment therapy mode is a open-loop mode, which is equivalent to enhanced loop recording.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.


1. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitehurst (US Patent Publications 20020013612 A1) in view of Haller et al. (US Patent Publication 20020013613 A1). Whitehurst discloses the claimed invention except for the

sensing of the patient location. Haller et al. teaches that it is known to use a GPS system to identify the location of the patient, for the purpose of monitoring the patient. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the therapy system as taught by Whitehurst with the GPS system as taught by Haller et al., in order to monitor and provide assistance to the patient in the event the patient is incapacitated and cannot request help.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alyssa M. Alter whose telephone number is (571) 272-4939. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9am to 4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Angela Sykes can be reached on (571) 272-4955. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Alyssa M Alter
Examiner
Art Unit 3762

AA


George Manuel
Primary Examiner